

Message Text

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJ: ULUNDI ALLIANCE PLANS AGENDA FOR MARCH 13 MEETING

REF: A. CAPE TOWN 292 B. PRETORIA 810

1. ULUNDI ALLIANCE INTERIM COORDINATING COMMITTEE MET FEBRUARY 15 IN DURBAN TO PLAN AGENDA FOR GROUP'S FIRST MAJOR MEETING MARCH 13 IN CAPE TOWN COLORED TOWNSHIP OF ATHLONE. ACCORDING TO REFORM PARTY CHAIRMAN Y.S. CHINSAMY, WHO CHAIRED COORDINATING MEETING, GROUP DECIDED ON SEVEN PART AGENDA: 1) DISCUSSION OF NATURE OF ALLIANCE STRATEGY; 2) ADMISSION OF NEW GROUPS AND PARTIES TO ALLIANCE; 3) VIEWPOINTS OF POTENTIAL APPLICANTS; 4) GRASSROOTS LEVEL ORGANIZATION; 5) FORMULATION OF A PRESS STATEMENT FOR CHAIRMAN; 6) MEETINGS AND CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND GROUPS; AND 7) PREPARATION OF A BLUEPRINT FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION. FIRST PART OF MEETING WILL BE CLOSED BY ALLIANCE PLANS PUBLIC MEETING EVENING OF MARCH 13 WHERE PRESUMABLY PARTICIPANTS

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WILL DISCUSS PROGRESS MADE IN PRIVATE MEETING.

2. CHINSAMY AND REFORM PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN MAHOMED MAYAT TOLD CONOFF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED POTENTIAL FOR INTERNAL SPLITS DUE TO DISAGREEMENT OVER ISSUES SUCH AS CONTINUED FOREIGN INVESTMENT (WHICH LABOR PARTY HAS PUBLICLY OPPOSED, BUTHELEZI FAVORS WITH SOME RESERVATIONS, AND REFORM

PARTY HAS YET TO TAKE A FORMAL STAND BUT GENERALLY FAVORS). MAYAT SAID THEY HAD "AGREED TO DISAGREE" ON ISSUES ON WHICH NO CONSENSUS WAS POSSIBLE SINCE THERE WERE MORE AREAS OF AGREEMENT THAN DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE THREE GROUPS. THIS WOULD, HE IMPLIED, PERMIT A WIDER REPRESENTATION OF GROUPS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WHO MIGHT DIFFER ON SOME POINTS BUT AGREE ON THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS, I.E. THE NEED TO CALL A NATIONAL CONVENTION, AND END TO APARTHEID, AND OPPOSITION TO THE SAG'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS.

3. CHINSAMY CLAIMED THAT AMONG APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS (NIC), QWAQWA HOMELAND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, AND PFP (WE NOTE THIS CONFLICTS WITH REFTEL STATEMENT BY PFP LEADER COLIN EGLIN SAYING HE WILL NOT LEAD PARTY INTO ALLIANCE). NIC LEADERS TOLD CONOFF THAT AT EXECUTIVE MEETING IN LATE JANUARY THEY RELUCTANTLY AGREED THEY HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO JOIN ALLIANCE (IF INVITED) SINCE IT WAS COMMITTED TO BLACK UNITY AND SINCE NOT TO JOIN WOULD LEAVE THEM IN THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS. ON FEBRUARY 14 DURING RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN PIETERMARITZBURG (SEPTTEL), CONOFF OVERHEARD NIC SECRETARY GENERAL RAMLAL RAMESAR TELL INKATHA LEADER GIBSON THULA NIC WISHED TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

3. COMMENT: IF NIC JOINS ALLIANCE, IT AND REFORM PARTY COULD CONCEIVABLY COALESCE AND UNIFY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF INDIAN POPULATION BEHIND ALLIANCE. THIS, PLUS ADMISSION
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OF ADDITIONAL BLACK GROUPS COULD NOT ONLY ENHANCE ALLIANCE'S APPEAL, BUT ALSO PERHAPS PUT BOTH SAG AND PFP UNDER PRESSURE TO MAKE A MORE FORMAL REACTION TO IT.
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